

BEDH

Pittsfield School District

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

The primary purpose of School Board meetings is to conduct the business of the Board as it relates to school policies, programs, and operations. The Board encourages residents to attend board meetings so that they may become acquainted with the operation and programs of the schools. All official meetings of the Board shall be open to the press and public. However, the Board reserves the right to meet and to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time. The Board also reserves the right to enter non-public session at any time, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 91-A:3.

In order to assure that persons who wish to appear before the Board may be heard and, at the same time, that it may conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board adopts as policy the following procedures and rules pertaining to public participation at board meetings:

1. Fifteen (15) minutes will be set aside for citizens to address the Board near the beginning of the meeting, and fifteen minutes will be set aside for citizens to address the Board near the end of the meeting. These periods may be extended by a majority vote of the Board. Speakers will be allotted three minutes per person. This time period may be extended at the discretion of the Chairperson.
2. Consistent with RSA 91-A:3, Policy BEDB, and the laws pertaining to student and family privacy rights, the Board will not place any matter on the public agenda that is to be properly discussed in non-public session. Complaints regarding individual employees, personnel, or students will be directed to the Superintendent.
3. All speakers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene, libelous, defamatory, or violent statements will be considered out of order and will not be tolerated. The Board Chairperson may terminate the speaker's privilege or address if the speaker does not follow this rule of order.
4. Any speaker wishing to address the Board must be physically present at the meeting of the Board.

Persons appearing before the Board are reminded that members of the Board are without authority to act independently as individuals in official matters. Thus, questions may be directed to individual Board members, but answers must be deferred pending consideration by the full Board.

Reading: December 18, 2008
Adopted: January 8, 2009

Amended: June 30, 2011
November 2, 2017